

Here is a ton of resources, some are fairly new and some that are from the old Helenas website (that I need to put back together).

Some of these documents are written by my guild members and belong to those people (so ... you know... no selling them, no plagiarizing, bla bla bla). Assume all the material listed here belongs to someone and while they are happy you can benefit from it they'd still like like authorial respect given.

My personal notes for my class are not yet in a form where they are fit for human consumption, but will be added to this list when it's ready. There's more than enough here to keep folks busy for a while though!

Some of the text in this document containing the links has been written by me, some by guild members, and some of it is old but still reasonably accurate. Same request for respect for that as well.

- gwendolyn

Guild Mistress of St. Helenas, Northern California Renaissance Faire

## Language

### **Elizabethan Language (Faire Language Pamphlet)**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5LJ4F7wGUwocDZaSEJHUFUwM1E>

### **David Crystal**

*Personal Website*

<http://www.davidcrystal.com/>

### **Original Pronunciation**

*I glanced over this website and it looks pretty awesome. Haven't completely parsed through it yet though.*

<http://originalpronunciation.com/>

### **Shakespeare: Original pronunciation (YouTube Video)**

*Excellent video and information on OP (what we call BFA) that has stuff on the Globe Theater, David Crystal's son, and other awesome stuff, including some clips of how things sound*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPlpphT7n9s>

## Guild of St. Helenas History Stuff

*PDFs of various interesting things and history*

### **Commoner's Knowledge v1.1**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5LJ4F7wGUwoLW5tUjBHZTdzTVE>

## Peasant Village Life

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5LJ4F7wGUwoT1AzS3NGZWVuSkU>

### **Wigston Digested**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5LJ4F7wGUwoVUJnREI3cGpTSWM>

### **Working the Land**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B5LJ4F7wGUwocmtzSnN0MjRoQmM>

### **Sine Curio, The Outstanding Helenas Song Book**

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1wAIKRrFvTB4MRkASVJ41FIdGvWmK61GWLLz8Ot7Xclo>

### **Awesome Documentaries**

*I haven't checked these playlists to confirm they are ones that have all the episodes and what not (though are absolutely the right show), however, this is an excellent place to dig up anything you find missing.*

### **Tudor Monastery Farm**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik7VsqxyPf8&list=PLB6YTQ-pcC4HD2NOtlaaxAXIUUPnljPIP>

### **Tales From the Green Valley**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRj1YYnsBGk&list=PL6LJQOAaGj2magtWkqgRQOUKF9SOK-llt>

### **A Very British Renaissance (& etc)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rtc1cY3ZDTs&list=PLhsbp51Zvnb4ojV1jHuKgBqHhoCdZqNq>

### **Secrets of the Castle**

*Here is a documentary on a period way, way before our time AND I think this playlist is goofy (though it is an excellent jumping off point for digging up better versions of the episodes). However there's tons of great stuff on how people lived here (even if it's not period accurate!!).*  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydoRAbpWfCU&list=PL72jhKwankOiwI5zt6IC3eQtsQDxOaN\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydoRAbpWfCU&list=PL72jhKwankOiwI5zt6IC3eQtsQDxOaN_g)

### **Books That Are Awesome**

Lost Country Life, by Dorothy Hartley

*How English country folk lived, worked, threshed, thatched, rolled fleece, milled corn, brewed mead... by Dorothy Hartley. The best source I've found for details of everyday life, including farming and housekeeping. Drawing from sources ranging from Roman times to the 19th C.; it's not always clear which reference is from when, but...*

Daily Life in Elizabethan England, by Jeffery L. Singman

*I know, you've read plenty of daily-life books, but this one's better. To start with, it was published in 1995 and well researched, so it's accurate and up to date. Also Singman is a re-creationist writing for other re-creationists. He doesn't just talk about clothing, food, games: he gives patterns, recipes, rules, etc...*

The Forgotten Crafts, by John Seymour

*Well-illustrated, how-to articles of one-to-three pages each on various British rural skills. Includes: making wooden clogs, tool handles, hay rakes, pitchforks, cart wheels, thatching, brick-making, hedge trimming, dry-stone walling, leather tanning, spinning, weaving, basketry, soap making- sixty-one crafts in all. A few of these techniques may not be exactly how things would have been done in the 16th Century, but...We faux peasants must use the best sources we're given. There is also a women's work companion volume, *Forgotten Household Crafts*, but alas, even less of it is relevant to our period (but it's great if you're into the 19th C).  
*The Common Stream*, by Rowland Parker*

*Traces the history of a Cambridgeshire village from ancient times to the present. The medieval and renaissance chapters use quotes from manor court and parish documents to give vivid insight into the lives of the villagers.*

*The Elizabethan Underworld*, by Gamini Salgado

*Discusses: Elizabethan crime and punishment, the various types and tricks of beggars, thieves, con-men, whores, gypsies and other members of the under-classes. Contains period woodcut illustrations and a glossary of criminal slang.*

The Midland Peasant The Economic and Social History of a Leicestershire Village, by W.G. Hoskins

*Like Parker's book it follows a village through history, only where Parker was a layperson writing for a popular audience, Dr.Hoskins was a British history professor writing a SERIOUS WORK of HISTORY. Still his writing style isn't too murky, as history professors go, and the level of detail he gives in the chapter on the 16th C. is amazing.*

*The World We Have Lost*, by Peter Laslett

*If you really want to get into the demographics of early modern England in detail, their implications and how they were arrived at, by one of the leading scholars in the field, this is the book. Not a casual read, Dr.Laslett is a Cambridge professor who writes like one.*

### **Thoughts on Books**

All the books mentioned above may be in your local library (Marin Co. has all but Parker's). The books below may be a bit harder to come by. You can find them used online. Certainly check Amazon - they have a large used book part of their platform. Look for a book and then check for "other buying options". Laslett's book can be found for as little as \$10. In the case of

Hoskins' book the cheapest copy I've seen was about \$30. Being a tight wad, I recommend hanging out for a few hours reading them in a university library (check on-line for library catalogues and hours before you go).

### **Primary Source Reading**

Reading what the Elizabethans wrote is the best way to get a feel for the period, its people, and how they spoke- all at the same time. For decades now, Ren-Faire language workshops have told us to read Shakespeare and the King James Bible, which is good advice to a point. They are brilliant and inspiring examples of Elizabethan prose, perhaps a bit too brilliant. I suspect that the reason more Faire workers don't speak in accent, is that they are daunted by looking at Shakespeare and King James, saying to themselves, "They want me to talk like that?" RELAX. Everyday people never talked like Hamlet or the Bible. When choosing among period plays (Shakespeare's or other's) a good rule of thumb is that comedies usually have much more natural dialogue than serious plays. Below are some plays that, while not nearly as brilliant as Shakespeare, are favorites of mine for language practice.

Part of the reason Shakespeare and King James have been so often recommended over the years is that copies are easy to come by. The advent of the Internet now offers us both free online texts and online shopping for rare, special interest books that might not be in your local book store. The down side of the free online texts of more obscure period plays is that they usually don't contain explanatory notes or glossaries. Some of them are printed in the original spelling, which is cool, but beginning Faire actors struggling with the language may not be ready for that. Printed hard-copy editions of these plays are available used and, in some cases, new; most editions provide notes, but some don't. Sometimes they can be found bound alone under the play's title, otherwise you can find them in books with titles like 'Plays of the English Renaissance' or 'Tudor Drama'. Don't forget to poke around in the drama section of your local library and used bookstores (while they still exist).

Comedies: